

in colour, some being of a pale golden-yellow with olive vermiculations on the back, others olive-green or olive-brown above, and golden-yellow or yellowish-olive below. I also found swarms of the young fry about half an inch in length.

The Cat Fish *Copidoglanis tandanus* was also caught, all five species being taken with rod and line from the same spot.

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DESCRIPTION OF TWO NEW BIRDS FROM THE SOLOMON ISLANDS.

BY E. P. RAMSAY, F.L.S., &C.

HALCYON SOLOMONIS, *sp. nov*

All the upper surface blue, with a slight wash of greenish on the head and back, quills black, the outer webs of a rich cobalt-blue; tail blue, vermiculated, a slight tinge of green on outer webs; a stripe from the lower mandible under the eye greenish-blue, ear-coverts bluish back, lores black, no white spot or superciliary stripe, no white nape spot; collar round the neck white or slightly tinged with rufous, bounded in front by a narrow black line from the earcoverts; on either side of the chest nearly extending across it a rufous patch, the feathers all margined with blue, under wing coverts white, all the remainder of the under surface, and under tail-coverts white, bill black, a triangular patch of white at the base of the lower mandible, feet brownish.

A second specimen has a pure white broad collar, bounded above and below with black, and an irregular patch of feathers on the side of the chest, margined with blackish-green, the under wing coverts and all the remainder of the under surface white, no tinge of rufous anywhere on this specimen; in front of the eye from the nostril a narrow line of white, lores black, no superciliary stripe, head and back washed with greenish, blackish green next the collar on the interscapular region.

The young female, above dull greenish, with a wash of blue on the wings and tail, collar white tipped with rufous and with a distinct black broad band above and below, across the chest the feathers are margined with black; under wing coverts white, the outer series at the base of the primaries tipped with black, upper wing coverts margined with fulvous, a dull fulvous narrow stripe from the nostril to the eye; bill black, legs brownish.

In a large series examined, there is no nape patch and no superciliary stripe, the blue above is of a rich cobalt on the wings and tail, and frequently has no white or buff spot in front of the eye.

#### Measurements of Adults.

Total length from nostril..	7.4	..	7.7	..	7.6
Wing .. .. .	3.6	..	3.65	..	3.7
Tail.. .. .	2.7	..	2.7	..	2.8
Tarsus .. .. .	0.55	..	0.55	..	0.55
Bill from forehead ..	1.9	..	1.85	..	1.9
Bill from nostril .. ..	1.55	..	1.46	..	1.55
Sex .. .. .	♂		♀		♂

This species is the representative of *H. chloris* in the Solomon Group, but may be distinguished in being of a much richer cobalt blue on the upper parts, and by having no nape patch or superciliary stripe, and in many specimens no white or fulvous spot in front of the eye.

In *H. Tristrami* (Layard),\* the figure unfortunately does not correspond with the description and no measurements are given, but if we take the size in the plate at  $\frac{2}{3}$ , then the bill from the nostril would only be 0.2 longer than an average sized specimen of *H. salamonis*. It is a pity Mr. Layard did not think it worth while, to give a description with measurements of this new bird—there is enough confusion already among the species of this

\*"Ibis," 1880, pl. xv., p. 459.

group. *H. vagans* with which the bird (*H. Tristrami*) is compared has a well defined *nape patch*, I presume this spot is also found in *H. Tristrami* as no mention is made of its absence.

RHIPIDURA TENEBROSA, *sp. nov.*

The whole of the plumage rich dark olive-brown, less tinged with olive-brown on the head, wings and tail dull dark blackish brown, the outer webs of the feathers washed with olive-brown, all the tail feathers except the centre two largely tipped with white; under wing coverts tipped with ashy; the margin of the shoulders very minutely dotted with white; the median and greater series of upper wing-coverts with a spot of white margined with fulvous at the tips of each feather, forming two distinct curved rows of spots across the wing, the ventral feathers and the under tail-coverts tipped with white, tinged with fulvous; a few feathers in front of the eye, some about the ear-coverts and those of the throat tipped sparingly with white. The feathers of the forehead lanceolate, probably erectile; bristles strong, black, longer than the bill. Bill brown, lower mandible whitish, legs and feet brown. Total length 7 inches (in the flesh); wing 3.35; tail 3.95; tarsus 0.84; bill from forehead 0.65; from nostril 0.35.

The description has been taken from a specimen in spirits not in a good state. Sex ♀. ?

This species was shot at "Way Warre," on the Island of St. Christoval, Solomon Group, by Mr. Stephens of "Ugi."

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NOTE ON THE RANGE OF *PYCNOPTILUS FLOCCOSUS*, GOULD, AND  
*PACHYCEPHALA OLIVACEA*, VIG. & H.

BY E. P. RAMSAY, F.L.S., & C.

In a former communication I think I mentioned the occurrence of *Pycnoptilus floccosus* in the Illawarra District, New South Wales.